

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: Ambulance Providers
ITA Providers
Managed Care Plans

Memorandum No. 05-02 MAA
Issued: January 11, 2005

For Information Call: 1-800-562-6188

From: Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration

Subject: Ground and Air Ambulance Medical Transportation Program and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Program: Policy and Rate Changes

Effective for dates of service on and after February 1, 2005, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is implementing policy and rate changes for ambulance services, consistent with the changes to chapter 388-546 WAC adopted in August 2004.

What has changed?

Major changes to the *Ground and Air Ambulance Medical Transportation Program Billing Instructions* include:

- Clarifying eligibility for ambulance services;
- Increasing base rates for ground ambulance services (see note, below);
- Establishing a process for considering exception to rule requests for nonemergency hospital transfers;
- Clarifying ambulance coverage out-of-state and out-of-country;
- Clarifying policy regarding coordination of benefits for ambulance services;
- Requiring a Physician Certification Statement (PCS) for nonemergency ground ambulance services;
- Incorporating the *Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions* into these billing instructions; and
- Renaming the newly revised billing instructions: *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*.

These changes are reflected in the new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated February 2005.



Note: The rates for ambulance services remain at the January 1, 2003, levels, except for the ground ambulance base rates. The ground ambulance base rates went up because three procedure codes (oxygen supplies/administration, IV supplies/administration, and waiting time) were eliminated, and the expenditures associated with these services were rolled into the appropriate base rates.

Billing Instructions Replacement Pages

Effective February 1, 2005, MAA's *Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated October 2003, is being updated and incorporated into MAA's new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated February 2005.

How can I get MAA's provider issuances (including MAA's new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*)?

To view and download MAA's numbered memoranda and billing instructions electronically, visit MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (select the *Billing Instructions/Numbered Memoranda* link).

To request a free hard copy from the Department of Printing:

- **Go to:** <http://www.prt.wa.gov/> (Orders filled daily)
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